

PATENT

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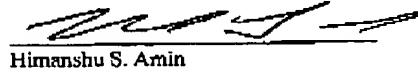
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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 571-273-8300 on the date shown below to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 3-30-06

Himanshu S. Amin

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): George D. Blankenship *et al.*

Examiner: Naeem U. Haq

Serial No: 09/838,970

Art Unit: 3625

Filing Date: April 20, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING WELDING CONSUMABLES

**Mail Stop AF**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

**REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 3, 2006**

Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments and amendments.